

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/522,160

Attorney Docket No. 90018.0.30

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In the Drawings:

Applicant submits replacement drawing as set forth below.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 and 26-33 are pending in the application, with claims 1-22 and 26-30 being withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a previous restriction/election of species requirement and claim 31 being allowed. Claims 32 and 33 are canceled. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Oath/Declaration

According to the Office Action, the Oath/Declaration filed in this application is defective. Applicants will file a proper, Supplemental Declaration upon receiving indication that all pending claims are deemed to be allowable.

Drawings

Applicant submits replacement drawing 16 to clarify reference line drawn to the inwardly-protruding cam portions 136.

Specification

The specification is objected to on the alleged basis that it provides no support for the for the collet being the lock means for locking the catheter and the cam means for closing the collet by compressing. Applicants respectfully disagree. The lock means 36 is described on page 18 as "for locking to the housing 32 the pair of reinforced catheters 38a, 38b." The specification further references Figure 8 and states that "[t]he lock means 36 include [sic] a collet 86 disposed

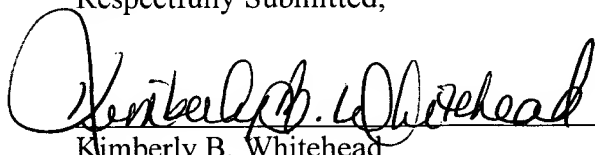
around each of the outlet tubes 84.” (Specification, page 18-19) Page 20 further elucidates that “to effect locking of the catheters 38a and 38b to the housing 30, the catheters are moved... between the tubes 84 and the collet 86.” Lastly, the specification provides that the “movement of the lock member 90 causes inwardly-protruding cam portions 136...of lock member 90 to engage and compress collets 86 against the catheters 38a, 38b, in turn compressing the catheters on the outlet tubes 84.” (Specification, Page 21) Accordingly, given that the catheters are positioned between the collets and the outlet tubes and the collet is part of the lock means, as stated above, the compression of the collet against the catheters locks the catheters between the collets and the outlet tubes. Therefore, the specification provides ample support for the lock means locking the catheter between the collet and the outlet tube. Page 21 of the application explicitly states that the inwardly-protruding cam portions engage and compress the collets against the catheters to lock them between the collets and the outlet tubes. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the objection is overcome.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Frederick C. Williams or Kimberly B. Whitehead, Applicant’s Attorneys at (202) 842-0431 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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